

the United States to be a Congressional Representative to the United Nations, I was in New York City and missed recorded votes on the House Floor on Monday, September 24, 2007 and Tuesday, September 25, 2007.

I ask that the RECORD reflect that had I been able to vote that day, I would have voted "yes" on Rollcall vote Nos. 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 905, and 907. I would have voted "no" on Rollcall vote Nos. 902, 903, 904, and 906.

ENSURING WELFARE DOLLARS ARE SPENT WISELY

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Mr. WELLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3656, a bill to better ensure that taxpayer funds for welfare go to help low-income parents go to work, not to support drug habits. I want to thank my friend and colleague, Congressman PHIL ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, for sponsoring this legislation and I am glad to join as his chief co-sponsor.

In 1996, the Republican-led Congress passed welfare reforms that emphasized the necessity of work to achieving economic self-sufficiency. As a result of that historic reform, millions of families have moved from welfare dependence to greater self-sufficiency, supported by pro-work benefits including child care funds, health coverage, and the Earned Income Tax Credit. Poverty has fallen dramatically, for some groups to record lows.

But there is still more work to do. We all know that too many American parents remain trapped by drug addiction. H.R. 3656 is designed to ensure that our country sends a clearer message about the support available for low-income parents, and what obligations those parents have to stay clean and off of drugs. So this legislation builds upon the success of the 1996 reforms by attempting to better ensure federal tax dollars are spent efficiently and appropriately. Simply put, taxpayer money intended to provide temporary assistance to needy families should not be spent to subsidize drug abuse.

H.R. 3656 expects States to test welfare recipients and applicants for benefits when caseworkers have reason to believe the parent is taking illegal drugs. Not every recipient or applicant, but those for who there is real cause to think that taxpayer funds might wind up furthering a drug habit instead of helping parents find, take and stay in jobs. This common-sense reform will help States identify those in need of substance abuse treatment, and ensure that federal funds are not spent buying illegal drugs.

Madam Speaker, recently in my home state of Illinois, I had an opportunity to meet with members of the Marseilles Concerned Citizens Against Drugs, a group of citizens committed to seeing drug abuse removed from my community. They expressed their dismay that federal dollars are being spent to support an addiction which destroys lives, families, and communities. I couldn't agree more.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation to better ensure that welfare assistance is spent appropriately, and that those addicted to

drugs be identified so they can receive the treatment needed to lead more productive lives. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3656.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. McHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 976, the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007. As a strong supporter of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), I am pleased that the House is working to extend SCHIP beyond its upcoming September 30, 2007 expiration.

Importantly, the bill before the House today (H.R. 976) does not include many of the Medicare provisions that were included in H.R. 3162. Those provisions would have markedly reduced funding for my constituent seniors, hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, and home health agencies. Accordingly, I was compelled to vote against H.R. 3162, even though I have long supported the SCHIP program and its expansion.

H.R. 976 takes the approach set forth in legislation (H.R. 3269) introduced by the gentlewoman from New Mexico, Mrs. WILSON, which I cosponsored. Significantly, under this approach, approximately four million additional children will have access to health insurance through SCHIP and their coverage will not come at the expense of my constituent seniors and health care providers.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD E. "DICK" COOPER

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I regret that I must inform the House of the passing of a great American in my home community.

Richard E. "Dick" Cooper was a friend to me and many others in the State of Kentucky, but especially in my hometown of Somerset. Even more than a friend, he was a father figure, a confidant, friend and advisor. And he was humble, giving and modest.

Dick left us August 7, 2007 at 92. He was the Chairman of the Board at Citizens National Bank, and knew practically everyone. In fact, he also likely knew their parents and even grandparents. His devotion to duty was tireless. He came to work every day right up until the day he died. He cared deeply for people.

After completing high school in 1932, he graduated with honors at the University of Kentucky. In 1942, he entered the U.S. Army and served in the Pacific. Back home, in the business community, he very successfully led the Somerset Stone Company before becoming chairman at the bank. As a civic leader in our community, he served on numerous orga-

nizations including on the advisory board at Somerset Community College. For many years he served on the Board of Trustees of the University of Kentucky.

Dick was more than a local leader. He was well-known throughout the Commonwealth, as a great civic and business leader. He was awarded "man of the year" in 1965 by a Louisville radio station. But he was our man of the year for many more years to come and will continue to be.

Mr. Cooper married Cornelia Dozier in 1961, and she is a leader in her own right in community and cultural affairs. He also leaves behind two children and five grand children. Dick was a brother to the late U.S. Senator John Sherman Cooper, who served with great distinction in Congress from just after World War II until the early 70's.

He came from a good family and leaves a good one behind. Family, friends, and associates from across the Commonwealth of Kentucky will remember him. He touched many lives and hearts with his genuine concern for them, and his example of leadership with purpose and dedication. I am just one of them.

The world is a better place because of the life of Dick Cooper.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on September 18th and missed Rollcall Vote 876 on passage of H.R. 1852, the Expanding American Homeownership Act of 2007. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

This legislation makes great strides in allowing the Federal Housing Administration to reach a greater number of borrowers seeking homeownership by increasing loan limits to keep pace with the rising cost of homes, and it offers new, important protections to borrowers who are vulnerable to exploitation in the subprime and predatory loan markets.

The bill also includes numerous other strong measures to help address our Nation's affordable housing crisis, and I would like to express my gratitude for this bill's passage in the House.

CONGRATULATING JOSEPH AND JOAN PRZYWARA ON THE OCCA- SION OF THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Joseph and Joan Przywara, of West Nanticoke, Pennsylvania, as they celebrate 50 years of marriage.

On September 14, 1957, Mr. and Mrs. Przywara were joined in marriage at St. Mary's of the Immaculate Conception Church in Wilkes-Barre.